

BEIRUT

From the Israeli invasion
to the massacre of
Palestinians at Sabra
and Chatila camps.

1982

Photographed and edited by Ryuichi Hirokawa, co-edited by Vladimir Tamari.
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To the memory of the men,
women and children who were
massacred at Sabra and Chatila
camps:

Like candles lighting up the
darkness, their sacrifice has
shown the world the truth about
the Palestinian cause.

OUR SACRIFICE, OUR STRUGGLE.

Yasser Arafat

History has never recorded barbarism and terrorism as it did during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. During their siege of Beirut and during the massacres at Sabra-Chatila Palestinian camps, the Israelis have used American modern weapons and deadly prohibited ammunition. They have also used them against Lebanese villages, cities, and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. It was the widest organized terrorist activity in the modern history of mankind. Around 75,000 Lebanese and Palestinians were killed, injured or lost as a result of the barbaric invasion of Lebanon.

The joint forces of the PLO and progressive Lebanese have confronted the Israelis heroically and bravely, although the balance of forces was clearly inclined to the Israelis, who were supported by the USA. The joint forces bravely defended Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, which was under siege and under continuous shelling from the Israeli warships, war planes, and S-S fire.

The 600,000 inhabitants of Beirut were deprived of water supplies and electricity by the Israelis. In addition fuel, food, and medicine were prevented from reaching the besieged city. Nevertheless, the city stood heroically blocking all Israeli attempts to storm it.

The Israelis, led by Sharon, were never allowed to penetrate through the strong defenses of the joint forces. They only entered the city after the departure of the PLO forces, in order to organize the Sabra-Chatila massacres of September 16th-18th, '82.

The PLO forces sacrificed to save Beirut from destruction and its inhabitants from being massacred by the barbaric Israeli shelling. The world has witnessed two important facts: the first is that the real terrorists are the Israelis, who have devastated whole camps, towns, and villages. The second is that the Palestinians are fighting for their freedom: Their right for self-determination, the simplest basic human right.

The world public opinion is urged, now more than any other time, to assist the process of peace-making in the Middle East, to support fully the right of our people for self-determination and building their own independent state. For decades our people have been fighting for their independence. We have sacrificed a lot. But we will continue the struggle to achieve our aim no matter how much more sacrifices it will







Israeli tank shelling the Arab
University area:
September 15, 1982.



The result of Israel's random shelling of West Beirut. The second floor of this building housed a museum of Palestine art. Tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children were killed or wounded in Israel's war of vengeance. Below: a victim of the phosphorous bombs thrown by Israeli warplanes. The burning continues even when the body is drenched with water.

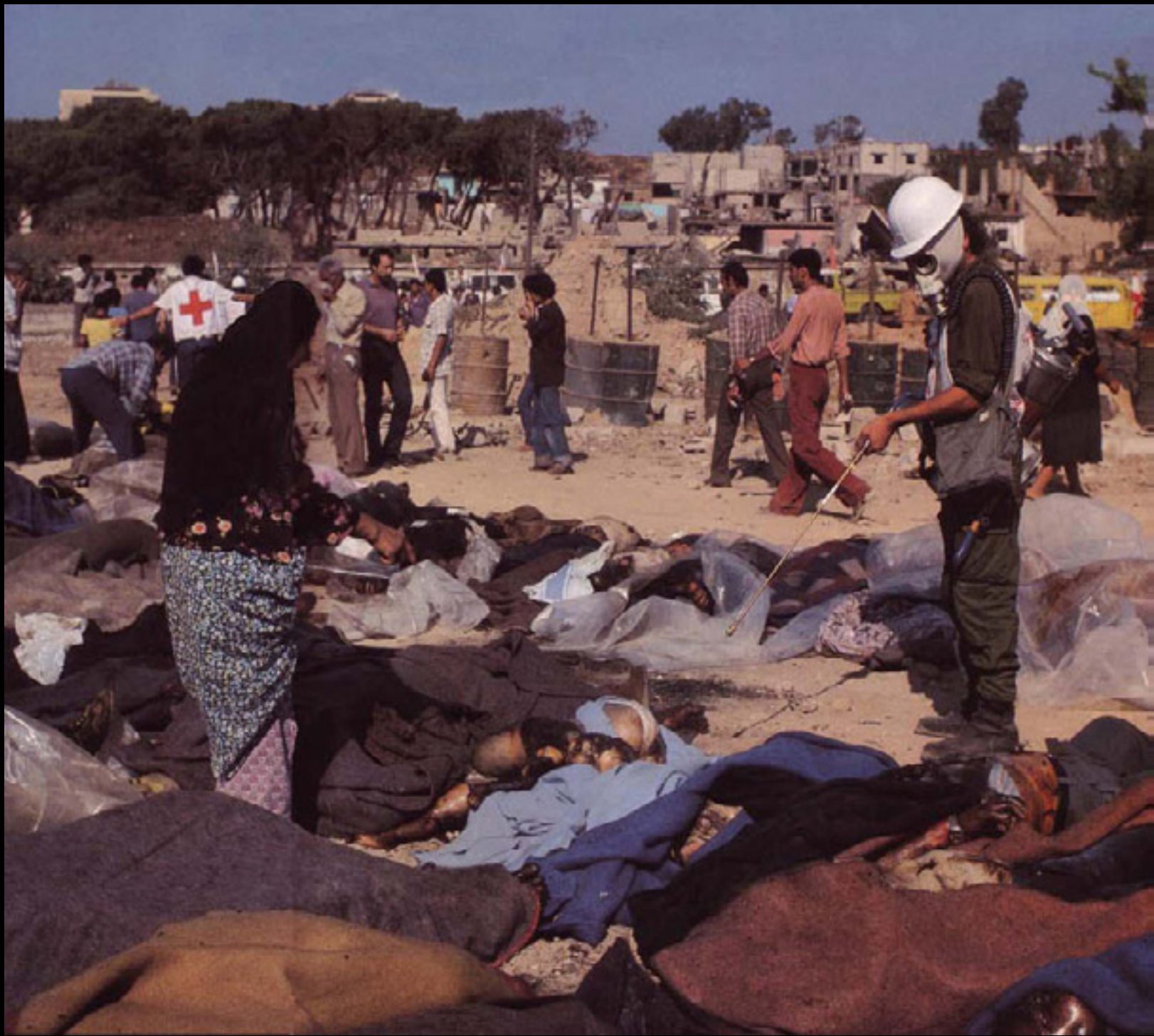




An old men shot in the temple on the 18th of September, during the massacre at Chatila camp. His eye was gouged by his murderers.



A small victim of the Chatila camp massacre. She was left to die next to a heap of rubble, bulldozed to cover the bodies of the other members of her family.



An old man shot and then slashed with an ax. The object under his thigh is a hand grenade with the valve removed, ready to explode if the body is moved.

About 60 bodies collected from Chatila camp in the early morning of September 20th. Medical volunteers spray disinfectant, while relatives of victims gather in order to identify missing family members. They are holding handkerchiefs to their noses against the stench.



A survivor of the massacre at Sabra and Chatila shouting "O God ! Come and see ! Come and see this crime !". This was on the morning of September 18 when the Israeli army partly lifted its siege of the camps.

THE INVASION

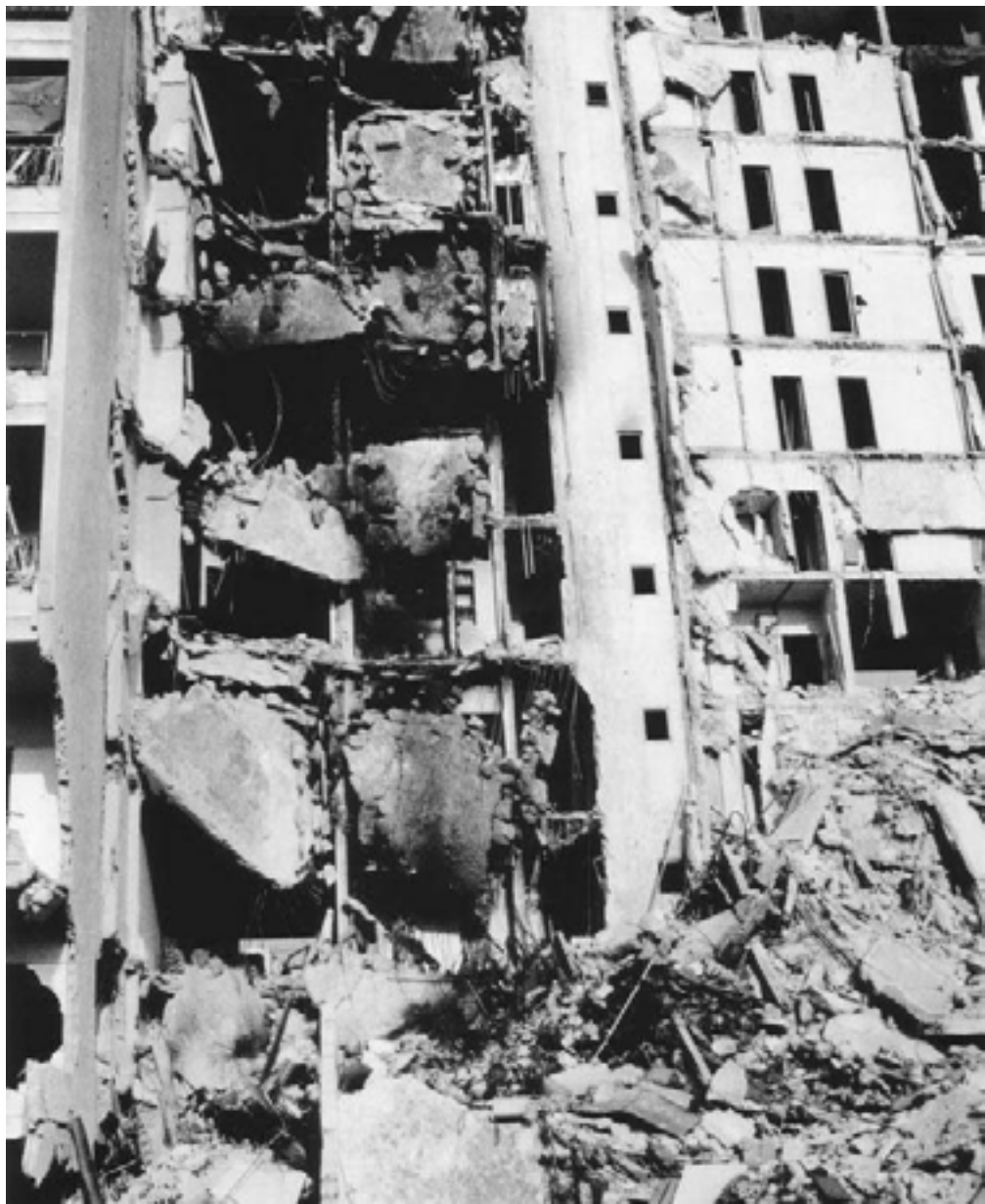
of Lebanon by Israel was actually a war of annihilation against the Palestinian people. From June 6, 1982, the Israeli ground, air and naval forces concentrated on killing as many civilians as possible. In the south of Lebanon, almost every building in every Palestinian refugee camp was leveled by blanket shelling. Every Palestinian male between the ages of 15 and 55 was arrested, many of them executed on the spot. Beirut, a densely built up modern city of half a million people was shelled at random by a horrendous assortment of bombs: cluster bombs, phosphorous bombs, vacuum bombs, even booby-trapped toy bombs. The Israeli siege of Beirut lasted more than two months, and food, water and medical supplies were cut off. Casualties mounted, and it is believed that the number of those killed, wounded and made homeless in this war could reach as many as a million people, most of them civilians. Finally, the PLO, although still in a strong military position, in order to save the civilians further suffering, decided to evacuate Beirut. According to the internationally negotiated agreement, the U.S. and multinational peacekeeping forces were to guarantee the safety of the families that the PLO commandos left behind. Although battered by the shelling, the Palestinian refugee camps of Beirut still housed thousands of elderly men, women, and children.







Ain al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp in south Lebanon. The Israelis destroyed every single building through shelling from the ground, air, and the sea. Every male adult survivor was arrested and placed in concentration camps and many were shot or beaten to death



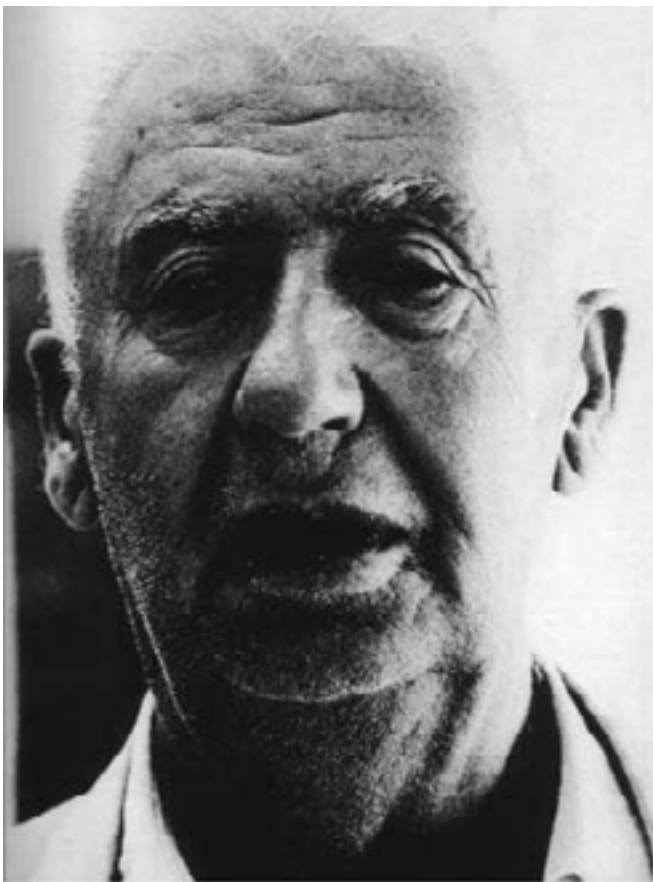
The shelling left Beirut in ruins. Among the wounded only the lucky could get medical attention.

←

This building, near the Arab University, had many apartment houses. The second floor was a museum of Palestinian Art..↑







The survivors faced an uncertain future: there was no way to care for the thousands of newly orphaned children, and for the homeless, sick and wounded. One Palestinian woman gave birth to twins, a girl and a boy, during the shelling of her refugee camp. She promised to raise them to liberate Palestine. Her picture was taken two weeks before the massacre was to take place...





On the 15th. of September, the Israelis used the assassination of the newly elected Lebanese president Bashir Gemayel as a pretext to invade West Beirut. The official reason given for the invasion was that they wanted to protect the Palestinians from the anger of the rightist militias! At that time the multinational peacekeeping force had left Beirut, leaving the civilian population at the mercy of the combined force of the Israelis and the militias. The stage was being prepared for the massacre...









THE MASSACRE

was a well planned military operation which started on September 15 with the encirclement and shelling of the Sabra and Chatila Palestinian refugee camps by Israeli tanks. Then the Israelis sent in their right wing militia allies into the camps, and the bloodbath started. Bands of 4 or 5 men would systematically enter the houses, killing, destroying and plundering. Many were tortured before being shot. Women and girls were raped or kidnapped. Many of them were grouped together and then machine gunned, then bulldozers would cover the bodies with the rubble of the houses. Elderly men and women were not spared, nor small children and babies. The bodies of some victims were mutilated by gouging of eyes, or hacked with axes.

Whole families were massacred together inside their living rooms and gardens, or in the narrow alleys of the camps. The killings continued until the morning of September 18. Throughout this time, the Israelis were in full control of the situation, even sending out flares at night to light up the camps. The Israeli tanks sealed all escape routes from the camps and fleeing men, women and children were threatened with being shot on the spot. They were forced to go back and face their fate...in all, more than three thousand Palestinians were massacred in those three days at Sabra and Chatila.











Groups of men massacred together. The victims were often tied with wires, either to restrain them while living, or to drag them to mass graves after being executed. The man in the foreground of the photograph on the left has his house-keys on his chest.





Old man shot and axed.
His body was then booby
trapped with a handgrenade,
set to go voff at a touch.

Survivors returned to the
camp, searching for missing
family members. The girl to the
left holds a framed photograph
which she showed to rescue
workers, hoping to identify a relative.





This small boy was wearing a chain, and seems to have been strangled to death with it. The women in the photograph to the left had just seen the results of the massacre on September 18.

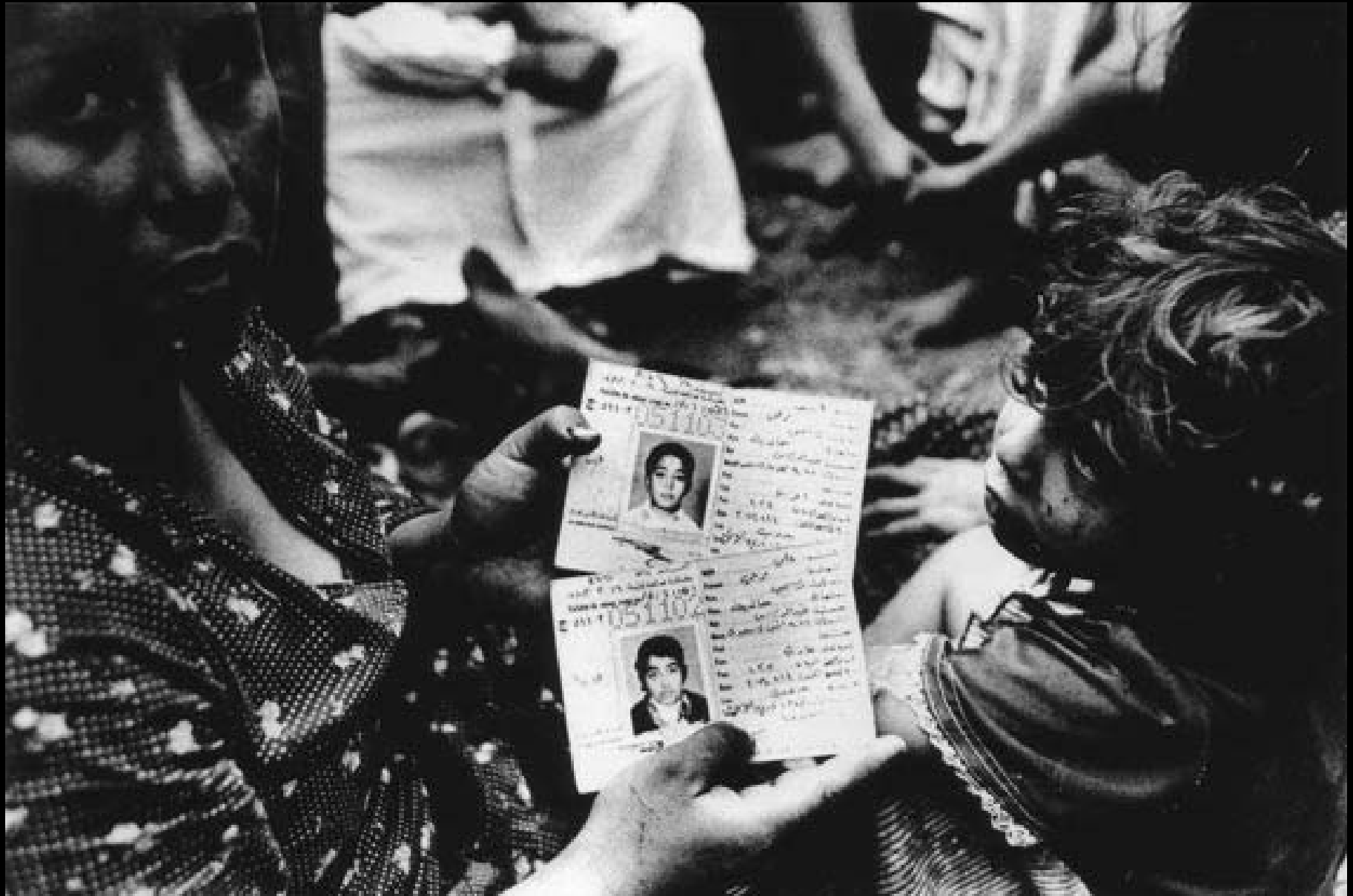


A four or five year old girl killed with her mother. Other family members were found in the rubble nearby.



This person was killed with a blow of an ax on the head.

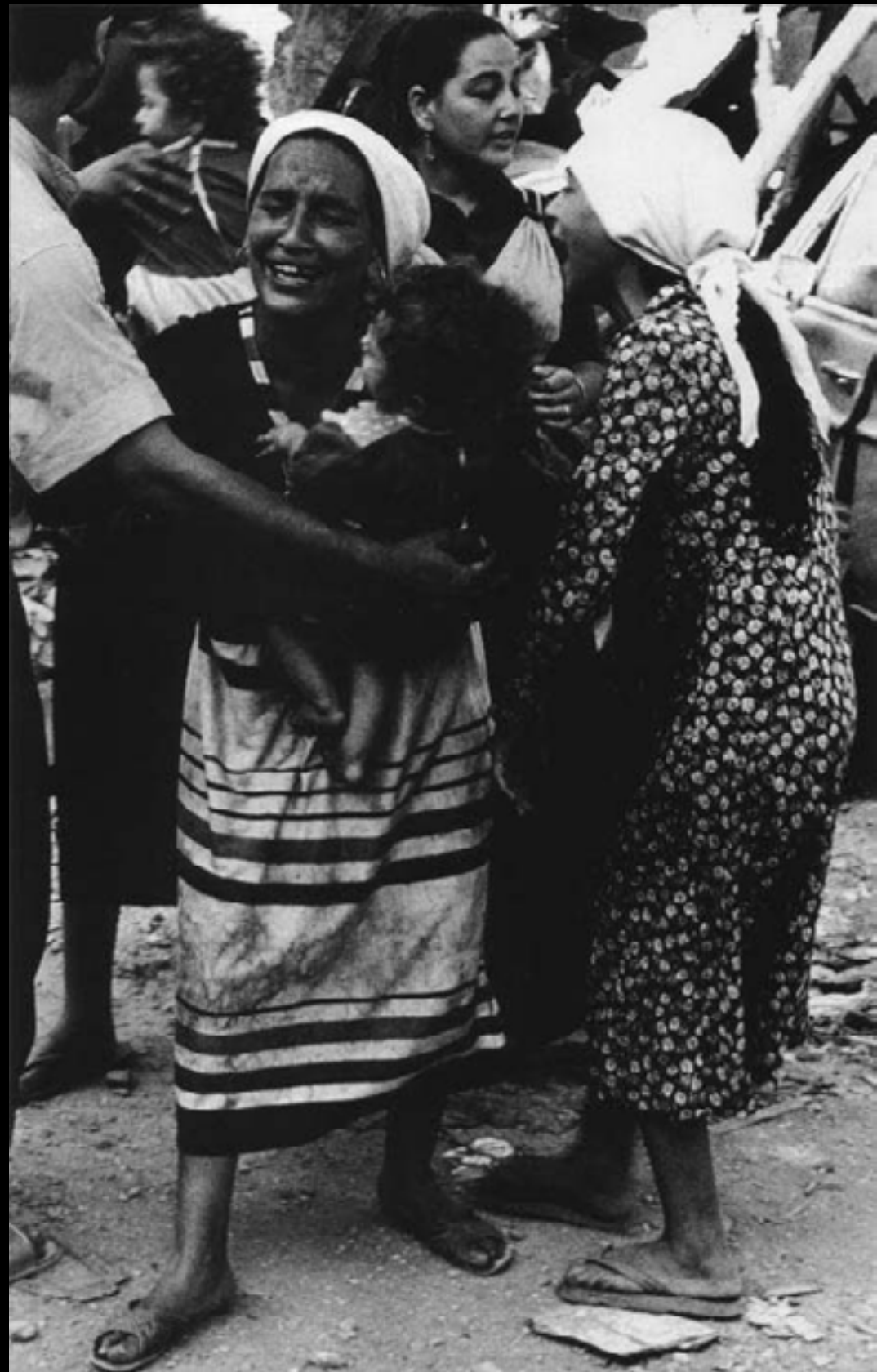
A mother showing the identity cards of her two sons massacred at Chatila camp: Ali and Muhsen Mir'i, 10 and 9 years old. The Lebanese authorities issuing the cards indicated the Palestinian boys' nationality by the words "Under consideration".





In the days following the massacre wild rumors spread in the camps that the rightwing militias had returned to start a new massacre.

Thousands fled in panic, seeking safety.





The young survivors of the massacre might be able to build up their shattered lives one day. But what of the old people? The old woman in the photograph to the right was among a group of four women kidnapped by the militias and abandoned near Tripoli in the north of Lebanon. They had all been beaten and seen the other members of their families killed before their eyes. The younger women were then raped.





This photograph and the one overleaf show the open-air morgue set up at Chatila camp, where people came to search for the bodies of missing relatives. Note the body of the infant in the foreground of the photograph above.

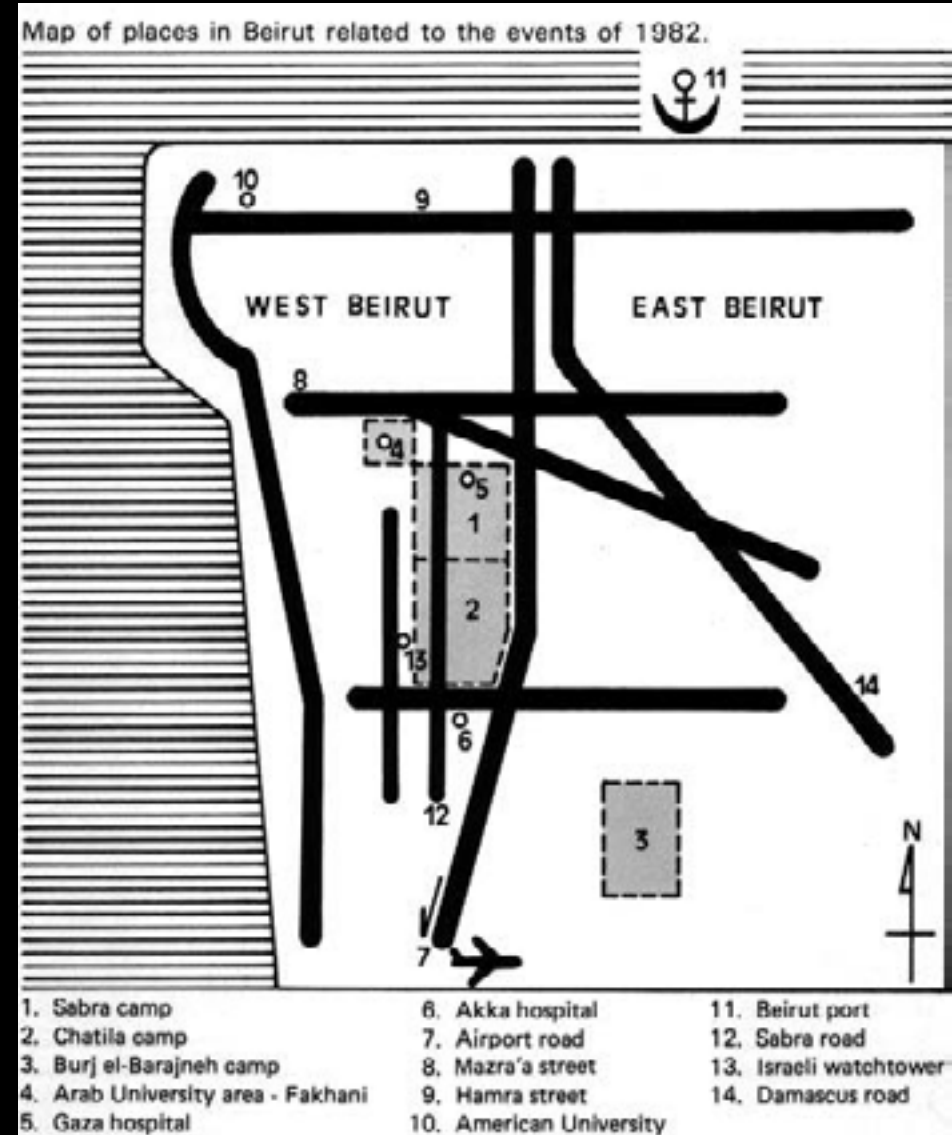




THE WITNESSES

In the following pages are the eyewitness reports by Japanese journalists, Norwegian and British doctors and nurses, and by the members of an American team that went to Lebanon during the terrible events described in this book.

Several of these witnesses appeared before the Open Hearing of the International Commission to inquire into reported violations of International Law by Israel during its invasion of the Lebanon. This Commission was held in Oslo on October 30, 31, and chaired by Mr. Sean McBride, S.C., winner of the 1974 Noble Peace Prize.



WITNESS : **Ryuichi Hirokawa** **(Japanese** **photojournalist)**

At 8 o'clock in the morning of the 18th September, hearing that the Israeli army had surrounded the Sabra and Chatila camps, I left a hotel in West Beirut and headed to the camps. I arrived at 8:20 or 8:30 a.m.

I tried to enter the Chatila and Sabra camps from the north, but found two Israeli tanks with their barrels pointed at the entrance, preventing anyone from entering or leaving the camps. Unmistakable sounds of gunfire and bulldozers could be heard by everybody. I said to the Israeli soldiers: "I am a Japanese journalist, let me enter the camp." But they forced me to go back. Then I went to the Eastern entrance to find that it too had been closed. So I tried to enter the camp from a street on the southern side, where fires were still smoldering. The street was scorched and the trees seemed to have been blown down by shelling. In spite of that I entered the camp for some time, but could see nobody. Just as I was about to leave, somebody called to me from the opposite side of the camp. He seemed to be a Lebanese. He told me that a massacre of Palestinian people was taking place in the camp. According to him, Haddad's soldiers* were executing Palestinian residents of the camp. This surprised me greatly and I asked him to take me there, but he was afraid of being killed too and ran away. So I had no other alternative than to go into the camp by

myself. Just then I was almost killed when an Israeli tank shell exploded about twenty meters away from me. I felt the fierce blast of the explosion, but fortunately I was not injured. "It must be a warning to me" I thought, and gave up my plan to enter the camp. Instead I went to the nearby Akka Hospital which I had visited several times before. There the Palestinian sick and wounded had been treated by an international team of doctors and nurses working with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. On entering the hospital I found the traces of caterpillars of tanks in the courtyard. That showed, beyond doubt, that Israeli tanks had been there only a short while ago. Beds in the hospital were burning but nobody was there. The fourth and fifth floors of the hospital building were still smoking. In the deeper parts of the first floor I found an old woman crouching on a bed which the fire had not reached. She was shaking with great terror and never once looked at me. The reason why the Israeli army was not stationed in that spot anymore and why Haddad's men had left, is still unknown. They might have tried to hide the fact of the massacre. But the fact remains that the Israeli army was sealing the roads on the other sides of the camps. I am not quite sure, but it is possible that I had entered the camp only minutes after the massacre was ended.

Leaving the hospital I entered Chatila camp and walked in for about 200 meters. I found the first dead body to the left side. It was a corpse crushed out of shape in the rubble. Turning my eyes, I found beside it another

* The militias of a Lebanese officer who is a close ally of Israel.

dead body in the same condition as the first one. Then another corpse was found after I had walked for about 50 meters from there. At that time I did not realize that these people had been executed at short range. I could not understand why these dead bodies were in the rubble and in the terrible shape and condition in which I saw them. I imagined that they were probably blown up together with the houses as they were shelled from afar in the midst of the war. But this guess was wrong, as I found when I saw the third and fourth corpses: The third corpse was of an old man with a white beard who had been shot in the temple. One of his eyes had been gouged. His walking stick was lying next to him. Stiffening of the corpse had not yet started and the blood had not yet dried either. The fourth corpse, nearby, was also of an old man, and as there was something green under his thigh, I approached to see what it actually was. It was a grenade whose safety valve had been removed. This means that if any relative or any of the groups collecting the corpses had touched the corpse, the grenade would have exploded, killing those nearby. This is how I became aware that the killings were part of a deliberate mass execution and not the result of shelling. Nevertheless I still could not know the scale and manner of these executions. I feared that the killers may still be wandering or patrolling somewhere nearby.

I then remembered that there was a school reached by an alley from that spot, where I had been before. On the way I saw the dead body of a woman aged forty of fifty.

When I returned to the wide street where I had been before, two women, aged thirty and forty came out of the shadows, running towards me and crying "Help us, Help!". They pulled me by the sleeve of my shirt and led me deep inside one alley where I saw an old man killed in front of a house. Beside the house there was an iron door but it was locked from the inside and we could not open it. The women cried to me saying "open it please at any cost my father is inside!". Gathering my courage I climbed up the wall and jumped inside thinking that I may never be able to get out of there alive. As soon as I opened the door from the inside the women rushed in.

Their old father was unharmed but suffering from shock and in terror for his life lying on a mattress. He said "I will escape from here but let me wait here for a little while longer." He was exhausted and hungry and the women left with him the two flat loaves of bread they were carrying. I locked the door from the inside again and we all climbed out of the house to run through Chatilla and Sabra camps towards the Lebanese residential areas beyond the camp where some people were supposed to be walking about. So after taking the women to these safe areas I myself returned to the camps.

On the West side of Chatilla camp atop a small hill there was a watchtower from where the Israeli soldiers stationed there must have been able to see and hear every thing going on in the alleys of the camps. They were calling for surrender in poor Arabic saying that anyone staying in the camps had better give himself up.

I entered a garage and saw tens of people lying dead one upon the other. I walked up to a little hilly place and turned around from there. In a small alley I saw the corpses of seven or eight women and children sprawled on the ground.

Descending that hilly ground I arrived at the garden of a house where I found all the members of a family massacred. It looked as if a bulldozer had attempted to hide these corpses. A dead body of a child of about two years old was thrown besides the rubble. I imagined that the child was alive till the very end as the corpse was not hidden under the bulldozed rubble by the killers.

In the next alley I found the bodies of two more children a girl and a boy both around 5 years of age.

Near them a woman's body probably their mother was covered with rubble by a bulldozer. The rubble did not completely cover her and some parts of her body could be seen. The girl was wearing toy earrings. The boy was wearing something like a chain around his neck. He seemed to have been choked by that chain as his neck seemed to have swollen with congested blood. Having seen all that I left the place around noon and found some journalists gathered around. When one of them said "The Israeli army has come or Haddads gang has also come everybody started to run. Even the journalists were seized with panic fearing that the witnesses to the massacre will also be killed. This is how we were in those moments..." As for the number of people I saw killed, the corpses I witnessed added up to at least fif-

ty. This number is limited to the ones I confirmed with my own eyes in the wide streets, and at short distances down the side alleys. Therefore we can imagine that far more people than that were killed; the camps are several hundred times larger than the area I was able to walk around in. We cannot tell how many more people were massacred, though the figures had been put at more than three thousand men, women and children.

On Monday September 20th, while walking along Hamra street in West Beirut, I saw about 20 soldiers in unfamiliar uniforms marching in formation from the opposite direction. Passersby were watching them fearfully and when I asked one man who they were, he replied that they were Haddad gangs. I asked him: "For what are they coming?" "To hunt Palestinians" was the reply.

I started to worry about the fate of the surviving Palestinians in the camps, so I hired a taxi and we rushed down the street, shooting the scene with a hidden 8mm movie camera. We were stopped by the soldiers, who interrogated me and forced me to leave the area. It was impossible to get any closer to the camps, and when I returned later nobody was there. So next day, that is the 21st. of September, I left for Damascus.

Thinking back about these events leads me to conclude that the responsibility for the massacre is much more on the Israeli side than on the side of the Haddad and Phalangist gangs*. One fact which proves this is that on Saturday the 18th. when I had tried to

* Rightwing Lebanese militias

enter the camps, it was Israeli soldiers who were sealing the entrances to the camps, who drove me away. That the Israeli army was controlling the camps at the time of the massacre is further proven by the caterpillar marks of the tanks on the ground of Akka hospital.

The Sabra and Chatila massacre is just the most horrendous in a long list of massacres which Israel has made against the Palestinians since 1948. It was the same Israeli Prime Minister Begin, then leader of the Stern terrorist gang, who attacked the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin in 1948, killing 256 men, women and children. The resulting panic, Begin later boasted, was a necessary factor in making the Palestinians leave their country, to be replaced by Zionist immigrants. The man most directly responsible for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the barbaric devastation of South Lebanon, and the siege and blanket shelling of Beirut, was Israeli Defense Minister Sharon. It was this same Sharon, who in 1953 was ordered to enter the Palestinian village of Qibya and kill about ten villagers in retaliation for the death of an Israeli woman. Sharon then proceeded to massacre all the inhabitants of the village he could trap, dynamiting the homes of 67 men, women and children over them. Nor is it just the 'extremist' Zionists who have made such massacres. Successive Israeli governments have all tried to 'solve' the Palestine problem in the same manner. In 1956, when the Labour party was in power, a group of Israeli soldiers imposed a sudden curfew on the Palestinian village of Kufr Kassem, stationing themselves at the entrance to the village.

The farmers, returning home from the fields and not knowing anything about the curfew, were shot one by one in cold blood, and 47 people were killed in this way.

During the 1967 war, general Dayan was responsible for ordering yet other atrocities. Whole villages were demolished and the fleeing refugees shelled with napalm bombs by pursuing warplanes. The pattern is the same throughout the history of Israel. In order to empty the land from its Arab owners, massacres are made, and the resulting panic makes the Palestinians flee. The Sabra and Chatila massacre itself is part of Sharon's grand plan of solving the Palestinian problem by creating another 'Palestine' in the East Bank of the Jordan river. The eventual aim is to transfer all the Palestinian people now living in South Lebanon and the west Bank to Jordan. In this context Abu-al-Arz, a leader of the Phalangist Lebanese forces had declared that of the approximately 250,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, only 50,000 were to be allowed to remain. It was as part of this plan, coordinated and supervised by the Israelis that the Phalangists and Haddad gangs were allowed by the Israelis into the camps. In the South of Lebanon other massacres on a smaller scale, had occurred, and to this day the Israeli occupation forces refuse to allow the Palestinians to rebuild their shattered camps. This is part of Sharon's grand plan to empty Lebanon of the Palestinians.

Following the news of the massacre, 400,000 Israelis demonstrated to show their opposition to Begin's actions. However, even this protest shows an inner contradiction. The

majority of Israelis had agreed to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon which had set the stage for the massacre, making it inevitable. The same contradiction can be seen in the Commission of Inquiry set up in Israel to investigate the responsibility of Begin and Sharon. This reminds one of the similar inquiry set up after the Kufr Kassem massacre in 1956. The soldier found responsible for the massacre of the 47 Palestinians was lightly reprimanded, and fined the grand total of one Israeli piaster, the smallest unit of coin. He was then appointed in charge of the Arab affairs of Ramle town! It is thus not individuals such as Begin or Sharon who have been responsible for the decimation of the Palestinian people, but the whole system of Zionism, which sought to create the State of Israel from the land on which the Palestinians had lived. The Sabra and Chatila massacre is just one incident in the history of the attempted genocide against the Palestinian people by Israel. Yet I believe the Palestinians will survive, and I hope that they will succeed to live in peace in their own homeland.

WITNESS: Hiromi Nagakura (Japanese photojournalist)

On Saturday September 18, I was covering the news from Anjar Palestinian refugee camp in the city of Baalbeck in central Lebanon. The Israeli invasion had swelled the number of refugees at Anjar from 9,000 to the present 15,000 inhabitants. There were even more refugees who could not be accommodated at Anjar, who were sheltered in a group of tents. Approaching a group of such tents a throng of people attracted my attention. Drawing closer, I saw a group of four women at the center of the crowd, screaming and wailing and pounding the ground. Their hair was disheveled and bloodstains were encrusted on the sides of their faces. One of them was an old woman with clods of soil stuck on her hair, and wounds on her face, her clothes and hair all torn. A young man from the Palestinian Red Crescent, who was serving as my guide, looked stupefied upon seeing the condition of the women, and hearing their story. I could recognize the words "Israeli" and "Kataeb" (Phalangist). Questioning them about what happened we were told that there was a massacre this morning at Chatila camp and the Phalangists had done it. Their lips were quivering and faces pale as they told us how their sons and husbands were murdered, "before our very eyes". One woman was clutching the photograph of her

murdered boy, about ten years old, pasted on a school certificate. All their money and jewelry and even blankets were plundered. According to their testimony it happened between 4 o'clock and 6 o'clock of that same morning (the 18th.). The killers massacred everybody they encountered. One woman from Sabra camp reported that 35 people were massacred around her, fifteen of them children. Another woman said that 20 people were shot in front of her eyes, at Chatila.

She said that Israeli soldiers were there nearby, but ignored their pleas for help, pretending that they didn't see and hear what was happening, although they clearly knew it, being just meters away. (Families which had tried to escape during the massacre were turned back at gunpoint by Israeli soldiers threatening to shoot them on the spot). The women were then taken by trucks to a spot near Tripoli and abandoned there, we were told. One woman cried frantically "What shall I do now? Everybody has been killed!". Besides her a little girl who also survived the massacre stood with red swollen eyes, recalling the horrifying scenes she had just witnessed that morning. We were told that the Phalangist soldiers had shouted "Gemayel, our God, has been killed. There is no God anymore". This was in reference to Bashir Gemayel the assassinated Phalangist leader. There was no indication whatsoever that the Palestinians were responsible, but the people in the camps became the scapegoats and paid for the anger of the Phalangists.

Early in the morning of September 19, the next day, I left the Bekaa valley and after

passing Syrian and then Phalangist checkpoints, entered West Beirut. There Israeli Merkaba tanks were rumbling in the streets, near Sabra and Chatila camps, raising duststorms in their wake, and closing off some roads. Around 3:00 p.m. of the previous day, news of the massacre had begun to leak to the outside world, following BBC newsreports. The Israeli army subsequently tried to leave the areas of the camps in order to shun its responsibility for the massacres. However, I heard that the Israelis sent up flares at night during the three days of the massacre, to illuminate the camps for the gangs inside. When I arrived at the camps Lebanese army forces had replaced the Israelis, but the Israeli tanks were directly behind, watching and on the alert. Israelis were now entrenched inside surrounding shops and homes, so as to appear as imperceptible as possible; yet they were still clearly controlling the camps, surrounding the Lebanese government forces.

After leaving my luggage at a hotel, I tried to enter Sabra and Chatila camps. However the tense Lebanese forces rejected my requests stubbornly, saying "Nobody can enter, we have orders from above". I tried every entrance to the camps, but in vain. All the soldiers were nervous and tense.

Early in the morning of September 20th. I again hurried to the camps, but yesterday's densely guarded positions were now empty, with only occasional groups of the Lebanese government soldiers to be seen, while other entrances were open. Hiding my camera, I entered into Sabra camp. The houses were in a terrible state of ruin from the bombard-

ment of the war (and, as I later learnt, from deliberate bulldozing over the corpses of the victims). Only two weeks before, the streets were full of a busy throng of shoppers, vendors and children. Now an eery silence was everywhere in the deserted streets.

After walking some distance, I saw some people, with handkerchiefs covering their noses from the stench, just near the Gaza hospital. The scene of the massacre seemed to be near. A young woman was standing in the street, looking totally vacant, with bloodshot eyes. Seeing me taking out my camera, she pointed to a corpse buried in the ruins, with only a leg sticking out. As I approached, flies buzzed away. I saw others, with arms sticking out of the debris. She then pointed out to me a hand grenade under another corpse, set to explode at a touch. In the alley, were several corpses left as they were, covered with blankets, under the eaves of a house.

The concrete floor was covered with dried blood, and thousands of maggots swarmed on it. The smell was horrible. The woman picked up an ID card from the body of a boy on the ground; the photograph on the card showed an innocent-looking boy, maybe ten years old, whose eyes looked right into mine. In a yard in front of a house were bloodstains and clumps of long hair. He or she must have been dragged from here, and I saw only a single boot left on the ground. Inside the house, the furniture lay broken and in great disarray, a reminder of the confusion and terror when the killers had entered the house at the time of the massacre.

After taking some photographs there, I re-

turned to the street. A half deranged screaming woman was clinging to the leg of the corpse that I had seen protruding from the rubble a while ago. A man and a woman were trying to stop her, but she apparently thought she recognized the body of a relative. Across the street, another woman was screaming at something she had seen up an alley, but then she collapsed, unconscious. She must have recognized some members of her family among the corpses. People who had managed to escape the massacre and fled the camp directly afterwards, now began to return to the camps, desperately looking for missing members of their families.

In the lonely deserted streets a woman passed by screaming "Ya Allah!" (O God). Some women were hugging and clinging to each other lamenting the death of their families. Too sorrowful for words, their sobs communicated their grief to each other. I saw a crowd of people in a square at the far end of the camp looking for more corpses.

Medical volunteers with gas masks covering their faces, were spraying the groups of corpses. In the square I saw a group of about 60 corpses laid side by side in a row, covered by blankets or vinyl sheets, emitting a terrible stench.

Despite the smell, mothers were going from body to body, lifting the covering blankets frantically, trying to identify the features of the swollen bodies.

A man lifted one blanket and shouted "Look! Even such a small baby..." and in an indignant voice ordered me to take a photograph of the boy. "Take a picture, and tell everyone about the reality of this massacre!". Among the dead bodies were those of three or four

year old children, infants, as well as pregnant women, and elderly men and women.

A Lebanese army soldier approached to stop me taking pictures, but the people of the camp defended me, telling me to hide the films. They turned to the soldiers of the Lebanese government forces, angrily asking them why I was not allowed to take any photographs. The people seemed to defy the soldiers who could not intervene to stop the massacre. I left the camps before my films could be confiscated.

In the afternoon of the same day, there was a great panic in the area of Sabra and Chatila. I saw long lines of cars leaving the camp, sounding their horns, jam-packed with people. The trunks of the cars were loaded with household effects. Alongside, people ran away in terror, clinging to some few belongings held under their arms, such as bread in a vinyl bag. People were running barefoot. A woman collapsed, lying flat on the ground, either from exhaustion, or resting after safely leaving the camp. Something must have occurred, and I tried to inquire from the people, but everyone was running in frantic terror, fearing for their lives. Finally one man replied to my question, saying "Haddad's men have returned to the camps again, and are killing people". After a while, the flow of people seemed to become less. A loudspeaker of the Lebanese army was calling out "It's a false rumor! Everything is OK! Come back to the camp!".

One Lebanese man told me that the rumor must have started when someone mistook the Lebanese army soldiers for Haddad's

men. But other journalists had actually seen Haddad's army in West Beirut, and they might have returned to the scene of the massacre, not actually killing this time, but to threaten and spread terror. At that time many women tried to stop me from taking their pictures. They seemed afraid that the pictures will be used to identify them as Palestinians. This kind of panic was itself what Israel had intended.

This testimony was translated from Mr. Nagakura's published report in Japanese.

WITNESS: submitted to the U.S. Congress by an American team.

"Almost all hospitals had been bombed, and most more than once or twice. The Dar al-Ajaza hospital was bombed by phosphorous bombs. The patients were dying from illness aggravated by the Israeli siege, i.e. the lack of supplies of food, water and medicine needed to guarantee their proper treatment. At the American University hospital a doctor said on August 12, that the great amounts of water needed to clean shrapnel and burn wounds, were not available so that doctors had to rip the skin off such patients to clean their wounds, rather than clean them with water. Dr. Eugene Makhoul said that sometimes the residents felt the need for water so great that they would go out in the middle of air raids to get it. The lack of water resulted in a backlog of patients requiring treatment so that those whose limbs had been amputated often got gangrene, so that they had to go through another amputation higher up on the limb to prevent the infection spreading.

"The number of wounded women and children that we saw with our own eyes while walking through hospitals, is enough to substantiate the fact that the bombs had been used by Israel against civilians, and expressly so. According to interviews with military experts, local citizens, doctors, medical personnel and journalists, the weapons

used most extensively by Israel in Lebanon are:

cluster bombs, fragmentation bombs, scatter bombs, phosphorous bombs, vacuum bombs, concussion bombs (ranging between 500 - 4000 lbs.) and anti-shelter rockets.

There is also evidence for use of:

poisonous gases, and explosive and/or poisonous toys or objects.

Almost all these bombs and weapons are internationally banned for use against civilian targets. Most of these weapons were supplied to Israel by the American government. Mohammed Yafi, director of the Sanayeh Popular Clinic described the effects of a fragmentation bomb that ripped through tents sheltering refugees from the war, killing six people, and wounding others, one of whom ran to the clinic, holding his intestines in from his cut stomach.

WITNESS
By Dr. Liv
Berit Bredby
(Norwegian aid
nurse)

Ain al-Hilweh camp was continuously bombed. On June 10, together with a Palestinian doctor, I visited one of the beaches where some civilians were kept. When we arrived at the beach we were overrun by people saying: "Our children are sick. We have diarrhea and fever!" We gave them whatever medicines we had with us. Many of those we saw were seriously wounded. Some of them were allowed to be taken by us back to the hospital. But others had to stay there on the beach, guarded by Israeli soldiers who prevented the people from getting out.

WITNESS:
Dr. Steinar Berge
(Norwegian
physician)

"At 4 p.m. of the 9th of June the Israelis threw pamphlets saying that the whole area will be bombed within two hours, and all civilians should leave the area. However the bombing continued almost without break during these two hours, which were mentioned for the evacuation.

"In the government hospital I was working with a Canadian Doctor. We were working on the stairs leading to the third floor. The hospital was full of seriously wounded patients, most of them civilians. We worked throughout the night, while the Israelis were bombing around us. At 7 o'clock in the morning the first floor was bombed. It was panic. Suddenly the patients who desperately tried to escape, ran up the stairs. How many died there this night I have no idea."

WITNESS
Dr. Per
Maehlumshagen
(Norwegian orthopedic
surgeon)
&
Dr. Swee Chai Khoo Ang
(British orthopedic
surgeon)

"In the early morning of September 18, on both sides of the street groups of women and children were rounded up by soldiers. We estimated there may well be 800 to 1000 women and children altogether... a woman tried to give away her baby to a foreign doctor, but was forced to take the baby back by the soldiers. The nurse who was left in Gaza hospital, testified that half an hour after the bulk of us left, continuous machine-gun fire lasting 20 minutes to half an hour could be heard, accompanied by the screaming of women and children. After that everything was quiet. A BBC correspondent who arrived about 9:30 a.m. to Gaza hospital, said that dead bodies in groups of 10 or more, were heaped on top of each other, lining Sabra street. Most of these dead were women and children.

THE MEMORY

Of Beirut and Lebanon, 1982

Of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese and other nationals who faced the madness of the Israeli invasion

Of those who lost a life, a family, a house, a limb

Of the nameless thousands who died in the rubble of devastated buildings, in Israeli concentration camps, in bombed out hospitals

Of those who were massacred in Sabra and Chatila camps in three black days in September...

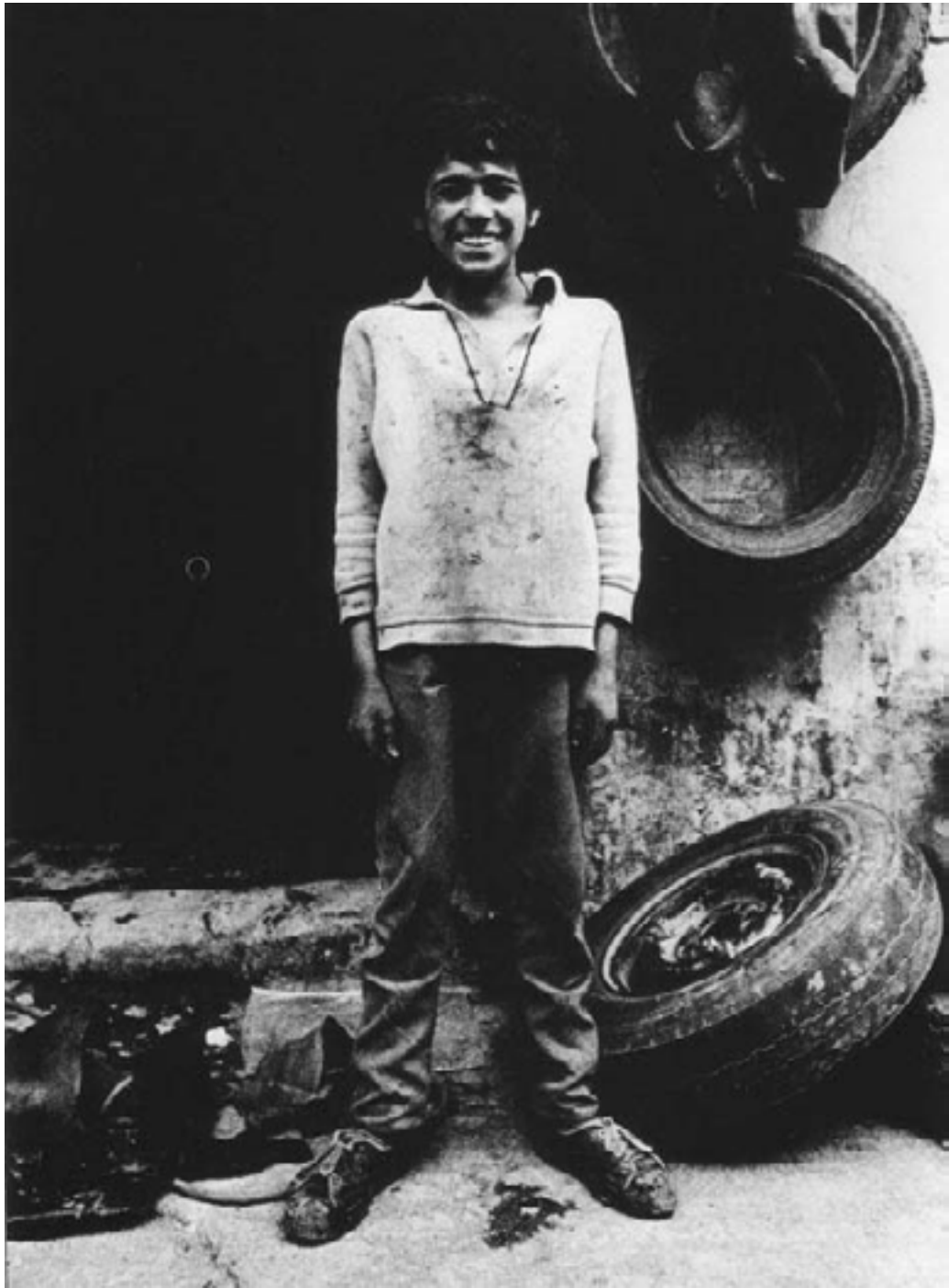
Of Sabra and Chatila camps in the summer of 1980, when the following four photographs were taken.

The following photographs were taken in Chatila in the summer of 1980...

Could the people have foretold their future then ?

Can the Palestinians foretell their future now?







RYUICHI HIROKAWA

Is a Japanese photojournalist. He was born in 1943 and graduated from Waseda University in Tokyo. He first learnt about the Palestine problem in 1967 during one year spent at an Israeli kibbutz. In the following two years he talked to many Palestinians suffering under Israeli rule, and he held a photo exhibition in Jerusalem with an anti-Zionist group.

Some of his documentary photo albums printed in Japan: "Children Deprived of a Homeland" and "Jerusalem- light and shadow" Both about the struggle of the Palestinians. He was a witness at the Oslo Open Hearing about the massacre of Sabra and Chatila, since he was one of the first journalists to enter the camps on September 18.

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HIROMI NAGAKURA

Is a freelance Japanese photojournalist. He was born in 1952 and was educated at Doshisha University in Tokyo. He has travelled widely around the world and was covering the Israeli invasion of Lebanon when the massacre occurred. The publishers are grateful for permission to use his photographs and eyewitness report.

BEIRUT 1982

From the Israeli invasion to the massacre of Palestinians at Sabra and Chatila camps.

Photographed and edited by Ryuichi Hirokawa Additional photographs by Hiromi Nagakura: pages 15, 19, 20, 22, 35, 36, 38, 43, 55, 56, 44, 45, 46, 47, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 68.

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